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HOUSE BILL 885

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Edward C. Sandoval

AN ACT

RELATING TO LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIPS; CHANGING ELIGIBILITY FROM IMMEDIATE ENROLLMENT AFTER HIGH SCHOOL TO WITHIN TWO YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 21-1-4.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1996, Chapter 71, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-1-4.3. TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED-- CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. --

A. To the extent that funds are made available by the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the boards of regents of New Mexico state university, New Mexico institute of mining and technology, eastern New Mexico university, western New Mexico university, the university of New Mexico, New Mexico highlands university and northern New Mexico state school shall

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1 award tuition scholarships for qualified resident students  
2 attending their respective institutions and branches of those  
3 institutions.

4 B. Except as authorized in Subsection C of this  
5 section, the tuition scholarships authorized in this section  
6 shall apply only to full-time resident students who,  
7 [~~immediately upon~~] within two years of completion of a high  
8 school curriculum at a public or accredited private New Mexico  
9 high school or upon receiving a graduate equivalent diploma,  
10 are accepted for entrance to and attend one of the state  
11 educational institutions set forth in this section or one of  
12 the branches of those institutions. Each tuition scholarship  
13 shall be awarded for up to four consecutive years beginning the  
14 second semester of the recipient's first year of enrollment  
15 [~~provided that~~] if the recipient has maintained residency in  
16 New Mexico and maintained a grade point average of 2.5 or  
17 higher on a 4.0 scale during his first semester of full-time  
18 enrollment.

19 C. The tuition scholarships authorized in this  
20 section shall also apply to full-time resident students who,  
21 [~~immediately upon~~] within two years of completion of a high  
22 school curriculum at a public or accredited private New Mexico  
23 high school or upon receiving a graduate equivalent diploma,  
24 attend a two-year public post-secondary educational institution  
25 in New Mexico and who, upon the completion of that curriculum

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1 or at the end of two years, whichever is sooner, transfer to  
2 one of the post-secondary state educational institutions set  
3 forth in this section. Those students shall be eligible for a  
4 tuition scholarship for two consecutive years, provided that  
5 those students maintain residency in New Mexico, maintain a  
6 grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale and attend  
7 the institution full time during the regular academic year.

8 D. The tuition scholarships authorized in this  
9 section shall also apply to full-time resident students who:

10 (1) within one hundred twenty days of  
11 completion of a high school curriculum at a public or  
12 accredited private New Mexico high school, or of receiving a  
13 graduate equivalent diploma, begin service in the United States  
14 armed forces; and

15 (2) within one hundred twenty days of  
16 completion of honorable service or medical discharge from the  
17 service are accepted for entrance to and attend one of the  
18 state educational institutions set forth in this section.

19 E. The commission on higher education shall prepare  
20 guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing  
21 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the  
22 tuition scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed  
23 to the board of regents of each institution to enable a uniform  
24 availability of the resident student tuition scholarships. "

25 Section 2. Section 21-13-10 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1963,

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1 Chapter 17, Section 9, as amended) is amended to read:

2 "21-13-10. BOARD DUTIES. --

3 A. It is the duty of the community college board to  
4 determine financial and educational policies of the community  
5 college. The community college board shall provide for the  
6 management of the community college and execution of these  
7 policies by selecting a competent president for the community  
8 college, and, upon the president's recommendation, the board  
9 shall employ other administrative personnel, instructional  
10 staff or other personnel as may be needed for the operation,  
11 maintenance and administration of the community college.

12 B. The community college board shall have the power  
13 to fix tuition and fee rates for resident and nonresident  
14 students of the district, to accept gifts, to accept federal  
15 aid, to purchase, hold, sell and rent property and equipment  
16 and to promote the general welfare of the institution for the  
17 best interest of educational service to the people of the  
18 community college district.

19 C. To the extent that funds are made available by  
20 the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the community  
21 college board shall award tuition scholarships for qualified  
22 resident students attending their respective institutions. All  
23 other scholarship funds available to the board shall be used  
24 before granting any lottery tuition scholarships.

25 D. The tuition scholarships authorized in this

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1 section shall apply only to full-time resident students who,  
2 [~~immediately upon~~] within two years of completion of a high  
3 school curriculum at a public or accredited private New Mexico  
4 high school or upon receiving a graduate equivalent diploma,  
5 are accepted for entrance to and attend a ~~community~~ college.  
6 Each tuition scholarship shall be awarded for up to two  
7 consecutive years beginning the second semester of the  
8 recipient's first year of enrollment, provided that the  
9 recipient has maintained residency in New Mexico and maintained  
10 a grade-point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale during  
11 his first semester of full-time enrollment.

12 E. The commission on higher education shall prepare  
13 guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing  
14 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the  
15 tuition scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed  
16 to ~~community~~ college boards to enable a uniform availability of  
17 the scholarship. "